

As I felt the importance of arguing the question with a man. who might fairly be considered a very prosopopoeia of *the* public press, I thought the experiment might be hazarded of giving him a slight and indefinite sketch of our intentions. This I did with great caution, and mentioning no names. To give you an idea of the effect I produced is utterly impossible. The Doctor started from his chair like Giovanni in the banquet scene, and seemed as astounded, — as *attonitus* — as Porsenna when Scaevola missed him. A new world seemed open to him, and this sneering scribe, this man of vast experience, who had so smiled at our first mentioning of the business, ended by saying that as to the success of the affair doubt could not exist, and that a year could not elapse without our being the very first paper going. . . . In brief, the Doctor goes to Paris.<sup>1</sup>

In the same letter he transmits to Lockhart 'a sketch, of our correspondence at present established.' He has provided for all South America, for the United States and Mexico, for all the Levant, and for every important place in Europe from Constantinople to Paris and from Rome to St. Petersburg. He has been 'very much assisted in this grand coup of Germany by Mrs. Wm. Elliot,<sup>2</sup> who, when devoid of humbug, is very clever.' \* I have no doubt that in a few days I shall get a most excellent correspondent at Cadiz ; but I have not yet succeeded in Madrid, which is most important.' ' We have established also at Liverpool, Glasgow, Manchester, Birmingham, etc., etc.:—actually established.'

About the middle of November Disraeli was at Chiefswood again, and an entry in Sir Walter's journal tells us the object of this second visit. A cabal headed apparently by John Wilson Croker, Secretary to the Admiralty, had been formed among the old contributors to the *Quarterly* against Lockhart's appointment as Editor. Murray, 'the most timorous, as Byron called him, of all God's booksellers,' took fright at their opposition, so 'down comes young D'Israeli to Scotland imploring Lockhart to make interest with my friends

<sup>1</sup> Scott's *Letters*, II., p. 408.

<sup>2</sup> A lady of German birth who had married Murray's brother-in-law.